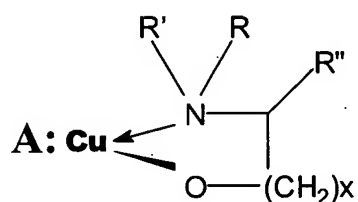


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Copper precursors of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

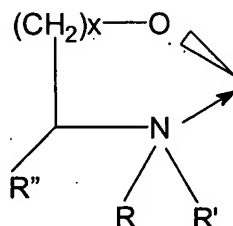
Cu is Cu(I) or Cu(II);

x is an integer having a value of from 0 to 4;

each of R, R' and R'' may be the same as or different from one another and each is independently selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl and C₆-C₁₀ aryl;

when Cu is Cu(I), A is a Lewis base;

when Cu is Cu(II), A is:



wherein x, R, R' and R'' are as specified above.